

science exists that shows California tax payers spending millions of extra dollars removing numerous cattle ranches from private ownership and management has any net, positive benefit to their resources. As a matter of fact I can show several examples where the resources are in a state of decline on such properties.

Furthermore, DF&G ownership eliminates all property tax revenue to San Luis Obispo County and the State of California that private ownership provides. Do not forget that about 80% of the county's property taxes go the State. Counties are laying off sheriff deputies and health care workers as we speak so how does DF&G justify taking more dollars away from counties? A conservation easement would save millions in acquisition costs, eliminate costly tax payer supported annual operational, maintenance and administrative costs while keeping the ranch on the tax roles and above all else protecting the resources.

Our proposal would be based on examples such as The Nature Conservancy's Howard Ranch, or California Rangeland Trust's and American Land Conservancy's Bear Valley Ranch in Colusa county. These are good examples of conserving valuable resources while being most cost effective. That is why the California Cattlemen's recommend that a